

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figure 9 has been amended to correct some typographical errors. The reference numerals 1040, 1050, 1060, 1070 on the right-hand side of the figure were changed to 1240, 1250, 1260, 1270, respectively. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification on page 30 at lines 21 and 22. The word “an” was change to “and” in process blocks 1030, 1230. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification on page 30 at lines 5 and 6. The word “Yes” has been added to the decision blocks 1020, 1080. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification on page 30 at lines 5 and 6 and at lines 17 and 18. The word “accumulate” was spelled wrong in process blocks 1040, 1240. The process flow arrows extending from the left sides of the input/output blocks 1090, 1290 have been removed since this was an incorrect flowchart notation. The input/output blocks 1090, 1290 simply represent the outputs of the process that cause the shades to move. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification on page 30 at lines 17 and 18.

No new matter has been added. A replacement sheet is attached.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 57-62, 64-65, and 94-96 have been rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schnebly (U.S. Patent No. 6,338,404). Claims 63 and 66-84 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim.

Independent claims 57 and 94 have been amended.

These claims have been amended to include further limitations directed to the lighting control portion of the control system, in particular, directed to adjusting the dimming level between lighting presets in order to achieve the desired illumination profile in the space.

Schnebly does not disclose or suggest one or more zones of electric lights or a plurality of lighting presets. Further, Schnebly does not teach or suggest the details of any method of control of the lighting system or the window treatment. Specifically, Schnebly does not disclose or suggest adjusting the dimming level of the lamps between lighting presets in order to achieve a desired illumination profile in the space. Also, Schnebly is silent as to how to control the lighting system and the window treatment in response to an output of a light sensor. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 57-84 and 94 should be allowable in view of this amendment.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of claims 95 and 96 under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schnebly, applicant submits that Schnebly does not teach or suggest the method as claimed. As previously mentioned, Schnebly does not teach or suggest details of the method of control of the lighting system or the window treatment. Schnebly does not disclose or suggest utilizing an open loop control algorithm for control of the electric lamps and a closed loop control algorithm for control of the window shading devices. Further, Schnebly does not teach or suggest controlling both the electric lamps and the window treatment in response to a signal representing a single input variable derived from at least one interior light sensor. In fact, Schnebly does not mention the details of how to control the lighting system and the window treatment in response to the output of a light sensor. Accordingly, claims 95 and 96 should also be allowable.

In addition, the Examiner asserts that it would be obvious from Schnebly that the control system operates to adjust the window treatment in the event of sun glare. Applicant disagrees with this conclusion. As shown by Applicant's invention, compensating for sun glare is not a trivial task. Simply using ambient sensors will not compensate properly for sun glare. It is necessary to be able to distinguish between sun glare and merely ambient light levels. In the case of sun glare, it is desirable to operate the window treatments to reduce the sun glare. It may not be necessary to do so merely in the event of ambient, non-sun glare conditions. With Applicant's invention, for example, depending on the time of day (and thus, the angle of the sun), the window treatments are controlled to reduce sun glare.

There is nothing in Schnebly that teaches or suggests adjusting the window treatment to reduce sun glare. Specifically, Schnebly does not teach comparing the sensed illumination in the space with a set point that is characterized by a dead-band having two thresholds at each end. When the sensed illumination in the space is outside of the dead-band of the set point, the control system of the present invention adjusts the window treatments to bring the illumination in the space back into the dead-band. During the times of the day when sun glare is possible, i.e., near sunrise and sunset, the illumination that is sensed by the photosensor may be rather low even though the sun may shine directly in the window and sun glare may occur. Accordingly, the control system is operable to modify the upper and lower thresholds of the dead-band such that the sensed illumination level is more likely to rise above the dead-band, thus causing the window treatments to lower (or close) to reduce sun glare. Further, the control system is also operable to multiply the sensed illumination by a gain factor of the photosensor. During the times when sun glare is likely, the control system preferably increases the gain factor, such that the resultant sensed illumination (i.e., the gain factor multiplied by the actual sensed illumination) is more likely to rise above the dead-band, thus causing the window treatments to lower.

Accordingly, it is submitted the claims are patentable for the reason that Schnebly does not disclose controlling the window treatment to reduce sun glare. New claim 97 has been added and is submitted to be patentable.

In view of the above, applicant submits that all claims in this application are now in condition for allowance, prompt notification of which is requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 7, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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Name of applicant, assignee or
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Signature

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Date of Signature

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